



BULLetin



May 2001

DX ALWAYS WILL BE!

Next General Meeting

The SCDXC meets the second Thursday of the month. Our next meeting will be held May 10, 2001 at Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. The directions are elsewhere in this newsletter. Meeting time is 7:30 PM,

Terry Dudson will be doing a presentation on his trip to Tajikistan, EY2A.

Soap Box— Words from our President



Hi everyone,

First thing I would like to say is thank you to the NCDXC for another wonderful DX Convention, and congratulations to Carl & Cathy Gardenias (N6DXC & WU6D) for their co-Dxer's of the year award and to Gene Davies (AA6NP) for his Clipperton award win. Great job by all! This was the first year I actually had a chance to stay and enjoy the whole convention without having to rush up there and leave the next day. It was good to see so many of the SCDXC members in attendance and have time to

socialize a bit more than the short break at our monthly meeting. The SCDXC Convention committee has already reserved the Holiday Inn for next year on April 26-28 2002. Some hotels are already accepting reservations and the YL has already made ours for next year, and to top that off I worked the VK9ML for an all time new one when we returned home! What a way to end a fun filled weekend. But as we all know, all good things must come to an end so I have to wait another year to win that FT-1000 or TX-455.

By now everyone should be well aware that we are no longer meeting at Jun's radio. This month will be our first meeting at the new location also in Culver City, which means review the map first and watch the

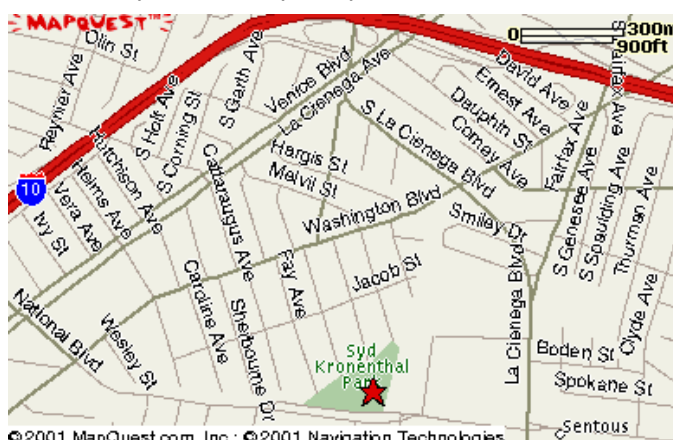
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Meeting Location changed

This will be our first month in the new meeting place. See the map. Syd Kronenthal Park in Culver City. It is located 4 blocks west of La Cienega Blvd. and 2 blocks south of Washington Blvd. From the 10 Freeway exit La Cienega south to Washington Blvd. Turn right (west) 4 blocks to McManus Ave (it's La Cienega Ave to the right, McManus to the left). Turn left (south) 2 blocks to the Park. The street dead-ends at the parking



lot. From the south you can exit La Cienega by the Airport and take it north to Washington Blvd. Turn left the 4 blocks. There are some restaurants in Downtown Culver city on Washington Blvd about a mile west from the meeting. There's a Sagebrush Cantina and a San Genero's Italian. You can also still meet at Shakey's or the Deli and you're only 5-10 minutes from the meeting.

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The Veeeeeep Speaks

Well, I was hoping to tell everyone about my new radio I won at the Convention, but it will have to wait till next year. I want to congratulate the Northern California DX Club for the wonderful job they did. I had a great time and it's always fun to see everyone and some new faces too.

World famous DXer and Dxpe-ditioner Terry Dudson will be doing a presentation on his trip to Tajikistan, EY2A. Terry's been on many expeditions and his pictures are always wonderful.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Skip, KJ6Y



Contributions
to the
BULLeTin are
always needed.

Soap Box

(Continued from page 1)

time it takes you to get there so you can recalibrate your travel time-line for the future meetings. And don't forget next month, (June) is going to be a double whammy with our second annual Anchor's Away Nite and the Club picnic. Does Skip know how to party or what hi hi. I'm sure we will need some help getting things together or flippin a burger or two, so if you would like to participate in your clubs activities, let us know. Remember if there's any suggestions, problems or questions you may have, you can send me an e-mail or call. You can also reach all of us by sending an e-mail addressed to board@scdxc.org

That's it from this end of the world and thanks to all for the good times.

73

Incredible DX'ers of the Year

Ed note: Carl and Cathy Gardenias were elected as SCDXC DXer of the year at Visalia this year. Harvey, W8DX, interviewed them for the BULLETin.

By the time Carl Gardenias, WU6D, had become president of the Southern California DX Club in 1990, he had easily qualified for the "DXer of the Year" award. But Carl didn't wear his accomplishments like medals. "I think it puts newcomers off," he said. He stopped plastering the count on his DXCC pin at 313.

In 1991, Carl retired from a productive and busy 24 year career in the Air Force. "Because my job was so sensitive, I could never travel abroad," Carl recalled, "I decided to go around the world." Heading West, Carl hopped from Korea to China, to Thailand to Turkey, to Europe and various stops along the way. He met other "hams" and even operated from some locations. But when he returned, his world had come apart, and he began a ten-year journey of depressing lows, and euphoric highs, culminating in an honor for Cathy and him, that is more deserved than the Southern California DX club could ever imagine. It is a story of love, dedication, selflessness and determination.

Carl's presidency and his career had ended. There were financial problems and he found it difficult to find work with a résumé confined to the military. "I went into survival mode," Carl says. He lost interest in radio, and struggled to make a living. He stretched his financial



means to go back to school and study project management.

Cathy's sister wanted to go to the Country and Western Club to dance. Cathy agreed, but she was shy, would only "line dance."

by sr. staff writer, W8DX

Until she saw Carl: "He was cute and he could really do the two-step," she recalls. "On our second date," Carl remembers, "it was raining and Cathy jumped right into a puddle. I knew she was something special." Though Cathy's ex-husband had obtained a "tech" license, neither Carl nor Cathy was aware of the other's experiences in radio.

They drove many hours to and from the DX club meetings. "It was 'quality time,'" says Carl. They bonded and talked and listened to the "Motley Fools." Cathy became interested in radio, but getting KF6LFB on the air had to wait until the finances fell in line. Carl's equipment and tower were at his ex-wife's house down the street. At one meeting, Cathy told Dan Magro, W7RF, that she wanted to get on the air. "Why don't you put up a vertical?," Dan asked, "And tell Carl to go down the street and get his equipment!" "It was a question of 'wants' and 'needs.'" Carl said sadly.

The next weekend, Cathy went to Las Vegas and won \$265.00. "I called Dan and said, 'bring on that vertical!'" Cathy remembers. Carl headed down the street with a wheelbarrow, and brought his equipment home to Cathy. Her enthusiasm was drawing Carl out

(Continued on page 5)



Ham Puzzle

by Milt W6RJO

In March Milt told us about V. H. Ham who decided to work some deep space DX. He plans to build an isotropic radiator and a California kilowatt.

Knowing that a spherical capacitor can be obtained from the space between an inner sphere and an enclosing outer sphere. If the outer sphere gets as large as the universe, where the DX is, he asserts that the inner sphere capacitance with respect to the universe is his isotropic radiator. Its capacitance (in pf) is $33.17 \times$ inner sphere radius (in ft). He decides that the inner sphere radius should be about 20 wavelengths.

- (1) At what frequency (wavelength) should he transmit?
- (2) What is the radius of his sphere in feet?
- (3) What is the capacitance of the sphere with respect to the universe?

- (4) What is corresponding reactance of the sphere at the transmitting frequency to couple to the universe?

And the answers?

He builds a California kilowatt for output at 1400 MHz (0.2 meters) to take advantage of the "waterhole" to contact any deep space dx listening or transmitting.

His 20 wavelength sphere radius is $20 \times 2X$ (3.28 ft/meter) yields a 13 feet radius.

Capacitance is: $33.17 \times 13 = 431.2$ pf.

Capacitive reactance is:

$1/2\pi fC = 1/2\pi \times 1.4E9 \times 4.31E-10 =$ about 1 ohm.



Now, all he has to do is couple his CA-KW to his "isotropic" radiator and listen. See a future installment to see how he does.

Antenna Tower Base Cheap Cement?

Veteran H. Ham's brother-in-law drives a cement truck. He claims that he can provide concrete for VHH's 4 yard concrete tower base for free, from left-overs from construction jobs.

V.H.H., knowing nothing about the structural properties of concrete as it hardens, agrees, since he is on a tight budget as usual and he got the tower for gratis. The truck arrives the first time, but has only enough concrete to fill the hole half full. VHH is ticked off, but he tells his (now nutty) bro to be sure to bring enough next time to fill the hole. Second load of concrete again fills the hole remainder by half. By now VHH realizes this was a dumb idea. But he figures that it will only take a couple of more loads at this rate of dribs and drabs to get the job done to at least 98 percent of the way to the top, which he will settle for.

How many truck loads in total did it take to fill to at least 98 percent at this "always only half of the remainder" rate? How many loads would it take to fill the hole to the very top at this rate?

Spotting Derby de K6EXO

This month we show the scores for the last two months. The bands have been very variable. We had some days where 15 and 20 were open till the wee hours and some days where propagation was close to zip. The April 1 SCDXC membership list was used in these calculations.

Also, because the LAX node was ill for a while, I have eliminated the spots made during that time period. The playing field is level again.

Spotter	Spots	Score
-----	-----	-----
AA6NP	208	570
W6TG	120	446
K6YRA	95	349
W6VX	90	249
W6LAX	124	246
W06M	75	218
WA6TLA	66	197



N6OU	114	194
W6ZH	83	191
W6Y00	62	169
K6IRA	105	167
N6RT	46	124
KG6OK	36	123
N6HY	48	116
N6HC	60	111
N6KZ	49	83
KN6H	39	83
W6KK	32	77
N6IC	31	63
W3SE	30	63
W6YY	22	57
AD6KQ	16	51
W6RT	17	47
K6GX0	13	35
K6YUI	13	35
WA5VGI	12	34

W60ES	12	33
K6FG	8	31
KQ6MW	14	29
W7RF	11	28
WA6WXD	13	26
KC6T	10	26
K6FR	7	24
AI6Z	7	20
W6EA	6	18
W6FW	5	18
W6EJJ	4	17
W6YJ	3	15
W6SR	9	14
K6JW	6	12
K6R0	5	11
AC6YV	6	10
NQ6N	3	8
K6EXO	1	7
K6WS	4	6
K6ZMW	4	6
K6WM	2	5
W6RW	2	4
KJ6Y	2	3
W6RJ	1	3
AA6RK	1	2
W6IRD	1	2
WA6WZO	1	1
K6SY	1	0

We Remember these QSLs !

I thought these might be of interest to you. I ran across these while I was on vacation over Christmas. I was moving my cards from photo albums to a new filing system and these three cards happened to be on the same page. It is interesting to stop for a moment and think about the changes over the last decade or so.

N6DHz



DXer of the Year

(Continued from page 2)

of his sadness. Cathy is active and athletic, a long-distance (150 miles) bicycle rider. She has always been in the medical field, in the "front line," interacting with patients. She has seen Carl turn his career around, and settle into a successful position at UC Irvine.



She inspired Carl, now he inspired her: "I'm taking a risk, starting a new career, graphic design," says Cathy.

Cathy did so well with the vertical, that Carl dug up two Rohn tower sections and planted them in a wheel hub against the house. John, N7CQQ donated the top section. "He drove all the way out here to deliver it," Carl said, a bit misty. Carl went to work cleaning Skip, KJ6Y's yard in exchange for a KT34A antenna. "He was the best yard cleaner I ever had," Skip says, "He worked and worked and then jumped in the pool."

Cathy needed to upgrade in order to work serious DX. "Rich made her work code," Pat Bongiorno, W6VXN said as hubby, Rich, W6VX encouraged Cathy to practice every day. At the

2000 DX Convention, Cathy won the grand prize, a Yaesu FT-1000D. "It was the icing on the cake," says Herb Rosenberg, K6GOK,

"she also won the Clipperton award that year." Herb guided Cathy through the intricacies of the DX cluster and logging programs. Cathy, now N6DHC, worked 100 countries in the 1999 DX contest. Meanwhile, Carl gently encouraged her and soaked up her excitement. "When she finally worked her 200th country, we could get away for the weekend," Carl said. "They joined our RV group, the 'Lovin' Levelers' on the weekends," Harvey and Susie Shore, K6EXO and AD6SU report.

The Gardenias' share a talent for mediation, organization and human relations. It has helped them to serve the needs of the DX club and the convention committee. They are committed members of the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club, and they worked with Patton State Hospital to set up a dedicated emergency communications center.

When Carl speaks of helping a newcomer, there's a gleam in his eye. Carl was licensed as WN6RMN in 1976. "I joined the DX club in the early 80's because I heard guys talk about it on the air," he recalls.

Here is a true partnership that overcame the bad times and turned setbacks into opportunities. The DXer of the year award may exemplify their DX accomplishments, but underneath, it glows with the light they shine on their lives and the lives of others.





To the editor:

I know you are always looking for something for the newsletter. Back in 1954 the Van Nuys Junior High School Radio Club had a picture taken by the Van Nuys News and Green Sheet. The picture actually made the front page of the newspaper. In the picture is Mark Weiss (then K6PBI / now K6FG). You might want to see who could identify Mark. He is the short guy standing next to the teacher (Henry Quinley, W6ZFW) in the back row. Mark is above the "K6" in the call letter sign.

De W6UJX



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Dayton Hamvention

Carl Nichols, N8WFQ, will be back this year as Banquet MC for the 2001 Dayton Hamvention. The featured banquet speakers are Bob Heil, K9EID, of Heil Sound Ltd; FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Radio, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, and Space Amateur Radio Experiment (SAREX) Working Group Chairman Roy Neal, K6DUE. Their topic will be "Amateur Radio, Past, Present and Beyond."

For more information, visit the Hamvention Web site, <http://www.hamvention.org/>

Letters to the editor

Hi Harv,

On the news today, I heard about a website called: www.spaceweather.com This was particularly interesting for the Coronal Mass Ejection, CME, of this weekend. Also, besides all the sun info, they had a very good asteroid download that gave you 3D orbit java programs to show moving orbits.

Anyway, I thought it might be a neat reference to the newsletter.

73 Don

The Proclamation

Editor of the SCDXC.

I have studied this proclamation in the April issue and I want to voice my support for the idea. I think most of the members know I generally am opposed to the IOTA counting; however, in this case I think it is proper to include the islands to qualify for such impossible contacts as P5.

When this comes up for a vote will my proxy be accepted?

73
Joe

Are you kidding?

Was this ment to be a joke?

I do not think the 25 year restriction should apply at all. I talked to some ARRL guys at the convention and they told me that this idea would be unacceptable because the new computer system they are installing could not be programmed to do the qualification.

Lets bring this up at a meeting. But, give us a warning first!

Art

Editor SCDXC BULLetin

When will we vote on this? I want to be there.

Best Idea in my 26 years of membership!

Ed

Thanks to Martti for the great story!

I never thought it would take that kind of effort to put a new one on the air.

But, Who were those six (6) W6s that worked the 1970 DXpedition! Are they still alive to share their end of story?

Ray

Ed note:

Can any one answer this question?

Propagation—May 2001

by Shel, W6EL

These predictions for the five prime HF bands show the times when propagation is expected to be best from Los Angeles to several locations that are expected to be active during the coming month.



Other times are possible, but with weaker signals or lower probability. Openings are not expected on bands that are not listed. A solar flux of

163, corresponding to a sunspot number of 122, and an average geomagnetic field are assumed.

Sunrise/sunset times are at the DX location. All times are UTC.

Good luck and good DX from Shel, W6EL.

KH2 Guam - 5/2 to 5/4 -
Beam 285 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/3) 2003/0833
80: 1100-1200.
40: 0900-1300.
20: 0700-1500.
15: 0400-0930 and 1400-1600.
10: 2030-0030.

3D2 Fiji - 5/4 to 5/7 -
Beam 240 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/6) 1824/0541
80: 0700-1330.
40: 0600-1400.
20: 0400-1530.
15: 1800-1000 and around 1400.
10: 1830-0630.

VU India - 5/5 to 5/7 -
Beam 341 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/6) 0005/1309

20: 1130-1500. Long path 0100-0130.
15: 1630-2000.

ZK1 North Cook - 5/5 to 5/11 - Beam 229 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/8) 1644/0421
80: 0700-1230.
40: 0430-1300.
20: 0300-1500.
15: 1600-1100 and around 1300.
10: 1700-0730.

3B6 Agalega - 5/3 to 5/16 - Beam 350 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/10) 0223/1357
40: Long path 1230-1400 and around 0230.
20: 0030-0300.
15: 0230-0700 and 1600-2330.

C6 Bahamas - 5/7 to 5/14 - Beam 93 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/11) 1028/2335
80: 0300-1030.
40: 0200-1100.
20: 2330-1330.
15: 1630-2400 and around 0130.

ZD8 Ascension - 5/7 to 5/17 - Beam 89 degrees
Sunrise/sunset (on 5/12) 0705/1844
80: 0400-0630.
40: 0200-0730.
20: 0000-0900.
15: 2130-0430.

Summer Bash

The annual SCDXC and SDDXC Summer Bash will be held at the home of Jim McCook, W6YA, on Sunday, August 26, 2001. Time 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Mark your calendars.

QSL VIA

CHILE, 3G1M. QSL via CE1VLY, POB 103, Santiago 21, CHILE.

MALDIVES, 8Q7KK. QSL to the following address only: Peter Kalocsa, MARKO, Bakonyi ut 20, H-8441, HUNGARY.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y4/N2IM, QSL direct to N2IM.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS, F2HE/FO0CLA. QSL via F6CTL.

NAMIBIA, V51/ZS4NS. QSL via N7RO.

ST. HELENA, ZD7K. QSL via GW0ANA.

GUINEA, 3XY6A, QSL via VE2XO.

BOTSWANA, A25/KY4P, QSL via SV0LM.

MOZAMBIQUE, G3MRC/C9, QSL to home call.

MALPELO ISLAND, HK3JJH/HK0M. QSL via N4AA.

MELLISH REEF, VK9ML. QSL via VK4APG.

E mail QSLs

The ARRL will soon be testing a computerized system of verifying QSOs for DXCC.

This was announced at the convention — no details were given.

We hope the project works well and the cost of confirming QSOs will be brought into line.

Enjoy the VOA-Delano Tour on Friday?

Joe Cadwallader, K6ZMW

Congratulations to the hundred or so who toured the amazing Voice of America transmitting facility near Delano, CA., enroute to the Visalia DX Convention on Friday, April 20. Those courageous enough to brave the intimidating chain-link and barbed wire entrance to find the "CALL#" button got to see quite a set-up!

- 800 acres of killer antennas covering 6 to 25 MHz - most electronically steerable in azimuth AND elevation (take-off) angle - not one of them less than 20 dBi gain! Makes you want to sneak in and hook up for a contest weekend!
- Half a dozen transmitters that don't even groan or dim the house lights when you hit the "HV ON" button, as the average FWD POWER meter comes up smoothly to a quarter of a million watts! Yes, OUTPUT! Yes, from EACH transmitter!
- And how about that "HV"? 15KV at ~21A equals about a third of a million watts DC input power! Nice efficiency, due to class D or E or some exotic pulsed mode! Even the filament power is scary: 18V at 300A = 5.4 KW, with an automated 15-minute warm-up and cool-down period!
- All that horsepower from a SINGLE final tube! It's originally a 4CX35,000 - commonly used as an air-cooled final for FM broadcast - with the finned plate radiator replaced with a vapor-phase boiler! You guessed it: distilled water at 212F boils into steam at 212F and carries away the calories of heat, while all the hardware stays at a constant 212F temperature. The new look of cool! They call this tube the 4CV200, the 200 standing for its plate dissipation rating in kilowatts!
- And you thought you understood high-level amplitude modulation? It's now done via the solid-state regulators in the HV power supply! That 15KV B+ is generated by 28 separate 700-volt secondary windings of the HV transformer, each one rectified, filtered, and solid-state voltage-regulated to deliver about 21 amps. The audio modulation is applied as an input to each of those 28 voltage regulators! Then all 28 are stacked in series and applied to the final PA to produce the zero-to-30KV DC peaks required for plus-and-minus 100% amplitude modulation. Another feature of this scheme - called "Controlled Carrier" - senses when the audio modulation stops, and drops the B+ to reduce the final stage output power by 6 dB (to just 50KW) to save on tube and transmitter wear and improve life! Shades of the Heath DX-35 on AM.
- I'll bet you thought they broadcast to the Pacific and Asia? True in 1942 when they built the facility during WWII for exactly that purpose. But now their primary target is Cuba: turns out the skip distance is perfect from Delano! Other secondary targets are Central and South America, Africa, and coverage of the US West Coast for the BBC!

If you missed this event and you're anywhere near Delano in the future, the good folk there would likely give you a private tour if you stopped by and asked. Many thanks to the site manager, supervisor Curt Steele, and the team of operators, for their gracious hospitality!

Ed note:

Joe was the one who arranged the visit to VOA. We all thank you!



The tower at N6IC.

Who We Are —

The BULLETin is published monthly by the Southern California DX Club and is mailed to all club members.

Please notify the BULLETin publisher if you do not receive your BULLETin, have a change of address, or have found an error.

Please direct all submissions for the BULLETin to the editor.

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Club Web Site: www.scdxc.org

BULLETin Editor:
Harvey Shore K6EXO
6433 Pat Ave West Hills, CA 91307
(818) 716-5681
E-mail: K6EXO@arrl.net

The BULLETin Publishing team consists of : W6AUG and AD6KQ
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Call book & ARRL items

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When you purchase this CD you will have free access to worldwide changes that have occurred since the CD was published.

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